BrahmaYajnam

Central theme of Brahma Yajnam is to chant the Veda learnt. In the name of Brahma yajnam two activities are done. The first part is chanting of the Veda learnt and the second part constitutes deva, rishi, pitru tarpanam. It appears when Brahmins take bath in the river the tarpanam portion is done at that time itself.

1. Achamanam 2. Vighneswara dhyanam 3. Pranayamam 4. Sankalpam

ममोपात्त - समस्त - - श्री परमेश्वर - प्रीत्यर्थं ब्रह्मयज्ञं करिष्ये। ब्रह्मयज्ञेन यक्ष्ये ॥

5. Beginning of the Yajnam – wash the front and back of both the hands while chanting the following mantra

विद्युदसि विद्य मे पाप्मानमृताथ् सत्यमुपैमि। Oh Parabrahman you are like lightening among the clouds and you know the papam I have committed. Kindly transfom me from this leela of yours to sathya.

6. Preparation for the Yajnam: Sip water thrice as in achamanam without mantra, put water on the root of right thumb and wipe the lips – do this twice and then wash the palm. Sprinkle water on left hand and the foot. Touch the siras, right and left eyes, right and left nostrils, right and left ears and then the chest. Sit like the Acharyal – right leg on top of the left leg. This sequence looks very simple however its benefits are extolled in the Vedas!

7. Beginning of Veda Parayanam – Keep both hands as in sankalpa and chant the following. The chanting of Gayathri is done as was done during Brahmopadesa.

ॐ भूः। तथ्सवितुर्वरेण्यम्। ॐ भुवः। भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि। ओ३ सुवः।

धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात्। ॐ भूः। तथ्सवितुर्वरेण्यं भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि।

ॐ भुवः। धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात्। ओ३ सुवः।

तथ्सवितुर्वरेण्यं भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि। धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात्।



हरिः ॐ॥ अग्निमीळे पुरोहितं, यज्ञस्य देवमृत्विजम्। होतारं रत्न-धातमम्॥ हरिः ॐ॥

The one who leads everyone, the very first devata invoked in all the yagyas, who is in the form of rithvik and hota and who can bestow the best of wealths I bow to you oh Agni!

हरिः ॐ॥ इषेत्वोर्जे त्वा वायवस्स्थो-पायवस्स्थ, देवो वस्सविता प्रार्पयतु श्रेष्ठतमाय

कर्मणे॥ हरिः ॐ॥ Oh cows and calfs, you give us homa dravyas and make us get involved in the worship of parabrahman, please go in search of food and let Savithru devan provide you with fodder.

हरिः ॐ ॥ अग्न आयाहि वीतये गृणानो हव्यदातये। नि होता सत्सि बर्हिषि ॥ हरिः ॐ ॥

Oh agni you have to come and accept our worship and take our offerings to the devas. With this in view kindly manifest in the yagasala.

हरिः ॐ ॥ शन्नो देवीरभिष्टय आपो भवन्तु पीतये। शं योरभिस्रवन्तु नः ॥ हरिः ॐ ॥

Oh the devatas in charge of water you be like not only to quench our thirst but also fulfill our desires in every way and with your blessings let us be happy without any sufferings.

Continue to chant a portion of the Veda learnt. Remember the portion completed and start from this the next day and continue this in this fashion until all that is learnt is revised. Then the next cycle starts.

> Note: For Harihi om in the beginning no anudata swara – though mentioned in many books – it is not correct!

8. ॐ भूर्भुवः सुवः।(Take a little water on the palm and rotate the palm around the head)

9. सत्यं तपः श्रद्धायां जुहोमि ॥ (Chant this keeping the hands in anjali mudra)

10. End of the Veda Parayanam (Keep the hands in anjali mudra and chant the following mantra thrice)

ॐ। नमो ब्रह्मणे, नमो अस्त्वग्नये, नमः पृथिव्यै, नम ओषधीभ्यः।

नमो वाचे, नमो वाचस्पतये, नमो विष्णवे बृहते करोमि ॥

11. End of the Yajnam– wash the front and back of both the hands while chanting the following mantra

वृष्टिरसि वृश्चमे पाप्मानं ऋतात्‌ सत्यमुपागाम्‌ ॥ Oh Parabrahman you are like bountiful rain. Kindly remove my papa karma. With this worship I am blessed with a glimpse of your permanent existence.

12. Deva Rishi Pitru Tarpanam: देवर्षि-पितृ-तर्पणं करिष्ये ॥

Deva Tarpanam – Do it with deva thirtha once after chanting each mantra

> Deva Thirtha: Water poured down through the tip of the fingers except the thumb.

ब्रह्मादयो ये देवाः तान् देवाꣳस्तर्पयामि। सर्वान् देवाꣳस्तर्पयामि।

सर्वदेवगणाꣳस्तर्पयामि। सर्वदेवपत्नी स्तर्पयामि।

सर्वदेवगणपत्नी स्तर्पयामि ॥



Rishi Tarpanam – Keep the poonal as a garland and use rishi thirtha (repeat mantra twice and thus do tarpanam twice) except at one place use Brahma thirtha as indicated – no deva thirtha at any place!

Rishi Thirtha: Water poured down through the left side of the right palm and right side of the left palm.

कृष्णद्वैपायनादयः ये ऋषयः तान् ऋषीꣳस्तर्पयामि ।

सर्वान् ऋषीꣳस्तर्पयामि । सर्वर्षि गणाꣳस्तर्पयामि ।

सर्वर्षि पत्नीस्तर्पयामि । सर्वर्षि गणपत्नीस्तर्पयामि ॥

प्रजापतिं काण्डऋषिं तर्पयामि । सोमं काण्डऋषिं तर्पयामि ।

अग्निं काण्डऋषिं तर्पयामि । विश्वान् देवान् काण्डऋषीꣳस्तर्पयामि ।

साꣳहितीर्देवताः उपनिषदस्तर्पयामि । याज्ञिकीर्देवताः उपनिषदस्तर्पयामि ।

वारुणीर्देवताः उपनिषदस्तर्पयामि । हव्यवाहं तर्पयामि ।

विश्वान् देवान् काण्डऋषीꣳस्तर्पयामि ।

Take water in both hands and rotate by 90 deg. The left hand, clockwise and right hand anti-clockwise simultaneously keeping the thumb apart to pour down the water.

ब्रह्माणꣳस्वयंभुवं तर्पयामि । (Brahma Thirtham)

Brahma Thirtha: Water poured down through the bottom of the palms.

विश्वान् देवान् काण्डऋषीꣳस्तर्पयामि । अरुणान् काण्डऋषीꣳस्तर्पयामि ।

सदसस्पतिं तर्पयामि । ऋग्वेदं तर्पयामि । यजुर्वेदं तर्पयामि । सामवेदं तर्पयामि ।

अथर्ववेदं तर्पयामि । इतिहासपुराणं तर्पयामि । कल्पं तर्पयामि ।

Pitru Tarpanam – Change the poonal to right shoulder – Pitru thirtham – chant thrice and do tarpanam three times.

Pitru Thirtha: Water poured down through the space between the fingers and thumb of the right palm.





सोमः पितृमान् यमो अंगिरस्वान् अग्निकव्यवाहनादयः ये पितरः तान्

पितॄꣳस्तर्पयामि । सर्वान् पितॄꣳस्तर्पयामि । सर्वपितृ गणाꣳस्तर्पयामि ।

सर्वपितृ पत्नी स्तर्पयामि । सर्वपितृ गणपत्नी स्तर्पयामि ॥

ऊर्जं वहन्ती-रमृतं घृतं पयः कीलालं परिस्रुतꣳस्वधास्थ तर्पयत मे पितॄन् ॥

तृप्यत, तृप्यत, तृप्यत ॥ (Pour all the remaining water chanting this)

- For all tarpanams use both hands.
- A simple and enjoyable one for kids – convenient for elders is to keep water in a basin and take water with both hands from it and pour it on floor or another basin!
- Buy a brass or copper basin for this purpose!

13. Samarpanam –(Bring the poonal to the normal position on left shoulder and use fresh water)

कायेन वाचा मनसेन्द्रियैर्वा बुद्ध्यात्मना वा प्रकृतेः स्वभावात् ।

करोमि यद्यत् सकलं परस्मै नारायणायेति समर्पयामि ॥

Compiler's Notes

1. Brahmayajnam really implies chanting the Veda – however the act of doing tarpanam is also done along with it. It appears that the tarpanam can be done independent of the Brahmayajnam. While Brahmins take their bath in the river – the tarpanam is done along with that itself! (Ref: Dharma Sasthram by Vaidya Brahmasri S.V. Radhakrishna Sastrigal)

2. The unique distinction of Brahmayajnam is that the basic procedure is mentioned in the Veda itself. Sandhyavandanam, Samidhadanam etc. are from smrithis. In contrast for all Shroutha karmas, the procedure is from Veda only. Although all Brahmins are expected to do Shroutha karmas, the practice of these has almost become extinct.

3. Brahmayajnam is a Nithya karma and needs to be done daily (not just on avani avittam or after amavasya tarpanam as it is practiced by many these days) after Sandhyavandanam or Madhyahnikam.

4. The main theme of Brahmayajnam is to chant the Veda learnt daily. You are advised to do it away from the human habitation and in a place without the cover of a roof preferably near a pond or a river bank that is clean and serene.

5. You are encouraged to chant it in a high pitched voice so that the sound mixes with the atmosphere!

6. While chanting it in a house do the parayanam at a milder tone so that others do not hear it!

7. It appears that if one chants a prasna a day, in 82 days one can cover the Yajur Veda!

8. Those who have not learnt the complete Veda but knows chants like Purusha sooktha, Rudram etc. can chant these at the time of Brahmayajnam. It is said that chanting of Purusha Sooktha has the merit of chanting Veda with its angas!

9. Normally Vedic learning is not to be done on Amavasya, Pournami, Prathamai, Ashtami, Chaturdasi, and also on cloudy days! Even on those days during Brahmayajnam one needs to chant the Veda!

10. The Brahmyajnam needs to be done after sun rise and can be done after Sandhyavandanam itself!

11. You are supposed to take food in the morning only after Brahmayajnam.

12. Deva, Rishi, Pitru tarpanam is done after this with a separate sankalpa. Sasthras say that all should do the pitru tarpanam as it is meant for generic pitrus. Many Vedic scholars do it that way only.

13. Some are of the view, that pitru tarpanam is not to be done if one has his parents alive. Consult the elders in the family or ask your Guru for a clarification and adhere to their advice.

Points for Discussion

1. In items 5 and 11 there seems to be a change in the swara

   विद्युदसि विद्य मे पाप्मानमृताथ् सत्यमुपैमि ।

   वृष्टिरसि वृश्चमे पाप्मानं ऋताथ् सत्यमुपागाम् ।

   – however the present compilation is correct.

2. The way Gayathri is chanted is the way one has to do Brahmaopadesam during Upanayanam.

3. Some say that the Gayathri chanted at the end should be chanted as:

तथ्सवितुर्वरेण्यं भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात् ।

However, Dr. Krishnamurthi sastrigal says it is absolutely wrong to do that and it should not be joined as above. The compilation follows the recommendation of Dr. Krishnamurthi Sathrigal.

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